



## Lawn Feeding Helps Trees

MOST OF THE PLANT life that helps better our everyday living has an obvious way of indicating that it needs nourishment. Lawns may go off-color. Flowers and vegetables become stunted and fail to produce their usual colorful blossoms or tasty fruits. Trees sometimes give up but more often they just make the best of short rations, pace their growth by decades rather than years.

Professionals have long known the advantage of feeding trees. Most home owners just accept their traditional slow growth as part of nature's plan. Yet how pleased they would be to know

that with just a little help in the dietary department, a tree can leap into maturity, spread its protecting and shading branches years ahead of what folks expect. What a boon then is tree feeding to the thousands of home owners who otherwise would have to be resigned to thinking in terms of many, many years before their new trees would prosper, provide welcome shade and complete the home picture.

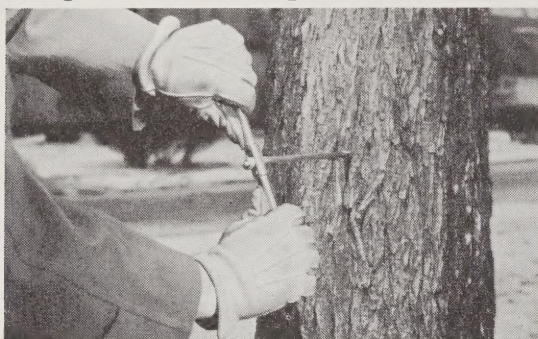
The pictures on this page show two American Elms that are within a hundred yards of each other. The one is taller as it should be since it is approximately 30 years old as compared to its





neighbor just reaching its twenties. Both are growing in an open area on heavy clay soil that is inclined to waterlog.

Looking at these trees, they would seem somewhat alike, but not when you compare their development by counting



the growth rings. By means of a special probe, small cores were taken from the trunks. These indicated that in early development the two trees grew at about the same rate. But, as shown by the borings reproduced below, it is evident that in 1940 the younger tree began to grow at twice the rate of the older one.

How come? Well it happened that home building took place in this section and a well cared for lawn was established under the younger elm in the fall of 1939. Because the owner liked the out-of-doors, this lawn was maintained at a high level of fertility. The ground under the tree received four feedings a year with TURF BUILDER.

Obviously the tree has benefited greatly from the surface applications of lawn food as well as the grass. Thus the extra lawn feedings that cost less than a dime per 100 square feet is

paying off many times over in the development of the tree that couldn't be replaced for hundreds of dollars.

**Changed Advice** — From this and other observations, it is now certain that the previously suggested method of feeding trees by drilling or punching holes into the ground is more laborious than necessary. This spoils the appearance of the lawn at the time and may mar its beauty the next year. The concentrated feeding in isolated spots is apt to mark the lawn with patches of grass of irregular growth.

**Soil Improved** — A comprehensive analysis of soil taken from under the two trees indicates that where the regular lawn feeding had been in practice, the amount of nitrogen and organic matter in the soil was appreciably better. This would seem to indicate that the 50% greater tree growth was not at the expense of the soil or turf, but was a bonus — an extra from the lawn feeding.

So if you want your trees to grow more vigorously, apply TURF BUILDER to the lawn more often. The total available nutrients will provide nourishment for the tree roots as well as the grass roots. Extra heavy single feeding is not the answer. Instead the frequency should be stepped up from once or twice to three or four times annually.

So when you're feeding old Rover, Junior's goldfish or planning to refuel yourself, remember your lawn has a tree-friend outside who is looking for a handout . . . time to get out the Spreader.

1936

Magnified view of growth rings

1936



## Meet Scotts Research



... in winter as well as summer.

What is it that enables a company to confidently launch a new product, make recommendations, stick by them, have the answers on new developments year after year? It's a strong research department and that is one of the most important Scott activities.

Over the course of a year dozens of new chemicals or natural materials are developed for evaluation in the agricultural field. Although many appear quite promising in preliminary plot experiments, they must be lawn-proven to our high standards of satisfaction to be of interest. Before large scale testing is undertaken, these materials must undergo careful screening in our greenhouse. Many never get beyond that preliminary. Even if they survive the early rounds, hardly one out of twenty proves of practical value in the Lawn Care program.

"Lawn grass is more important to more people than any other crop" according to an agricultural experiment station official. He goes on to point out that grass is of major concern to everyone whether living in city or country. Besides its usual importance on lawns and parks, grass is a land conserver, a soil improver, an increaser of real estate values.

IT IS gratifying to the editors of **LAWN CARE** to note the increasing interest in out-of-door living and the lawn as a hobby.

This year over a half million pocket size condensations of the Lawn Care booklets will be made available to their workers by some of America's larger corporations including General Motors, U S Steel, Armstrong Cork and others.

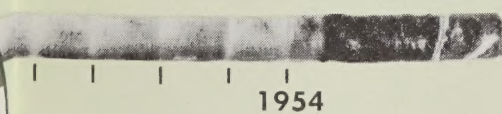
This type of literature is distributed to personnel through the plant reading rack service setup. Maybe there is something to the oft repeated statement "A worker with a green thumb is a happy one".

## Fertilizer Saves Water

In a recent address, the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr Ezra Taft Benson, reported on the moisture needs of crops. He said the Department's investigators showed that corn grown on claypan soil required much less water when the soil is heavily fertilized than when it is unfertilized. The ratio was more than three to one in favor of the heavy feeding program. The actual figure quoted — 21,000 gallons of water were needed to produce a bushel of corn (corn and grass are in the same botanical family) on unfertilized ground compared with 5600 gallons where adequate plant food was applied.

In the same talk, the secretary pointed out that use of fertilizers is "one of the highly important factors in bringing about a satisfactory diversion of thin, unsuitable soil from cultivated crops to grass".

*¶ He might have said that generous feeding is the answer to those who have only poor subsoil on which to develop a good lawn. Ed*



1954

Faster growth after regular feeding

Borings show growth rings practically even for the two elms until 1940. From then on, the well-fed younger elm made twice as much growth as the older one, simply as a supplemental benefit from four times yearly Turf Builder to the lawn.

1954



## Lawns in the Mid-States

This edition of LAWN CARE is prepared to help those living in the transitional climatic zone. The mid-section of the country poses special problems with growing things because it is too far north for best success with southern grasses, but still far enough south to have summers that are tough for the most desirable lawn grasses such as the Bluegrass, Bent and Fescue groups.

Lawn success will come easier in the middle country if there is an understanding of the opposition, namely—

- 1) Fungus diseases may be active in spring as well as summer
- 2) Crabgrass while strictly annual has a long season
- 3) Mid-summer Bermuda grass invasions
- 4) Probable early drought where watering is not possible
- 5) Chance of sudden hot weather finding plants not prepared to cope with it
- 6) The debilitating effect of day after day muggy weather in the 90's.

Wherever a fairly good sod of Bluegrass-Bentgrass exists, the lawn can be made even better by an alert program, including the following:

- 1) Feeding—it's better to TURF BUILDER generously, well before summer.
- 2) Reduce ravages of Crabgrass, Chickweed, other annual weeds and disease by intensive SCUTL program—Spreader applications starting about time of first mowing, continuing at three week intervals well into the summer
- 3) Hand pluck sprigs of Bermuda as they appear
- 4) Use one of the 2,4-D preparations to get rid of non-grass weeds
- 5) Keep lawn reasonably moist. Dry lands of the west may at times need daily watering
- 6) In hot weather mow the Bluegrass lawn at about two inches. Bentgrass turf at about one inch.



Spring is the season for rhizome activity of Kentucky Bluegrass. This desirable spread of rootstalks is encouraged by frequent feedings.

## Pluck Out Bermuda

After such a tough February, the volunteer Bermuda will stand out, uglier than ever in some spring lawns in the mid-states area. The dirty white tufts or patches are a blot on the landscape through a picture window or by any view.

If there are only patches, dig them out now. Replace the divot with good sod from the edge of the lawn or fill in with soil and sow seed.

If the invasion is too great for spot attack, then you may as well reconcile yourself to live with the Bermuda for the coming summer. There is little point to sowing good seed into a potential jungle since the heat-loving Bermuda will smother the seedlings. Resolve, however, to do something about coarse Bermuda invader in early fall. Meanwhile, help the Bermuda to appear at its best by combing out the brown matted stems and runners to let in needed air and light. Follow with a feeding and use weed controls as the occasion arises. Keep the lawn mowed fairly short.

If it's seeding you need, we suggest Haven brand, possibly with Clover if you like it in the lawn.

**O M Scott & SONS CO**

**MARYSVILLE, OHIO**

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